



Forest
Service

Chattahoochee-Oconee
National Forests
Conasauga Ranger District

3941 Highway 76
Chatsworth, GA 30705
(706) 695-6736

File Code: 1950
Route To:

Date: November 3, 2008

Subject: Special Use Permit Application

Dear Interested Citizen:

The Conasauga Ranger District is seeking comments on a proposal for a multi-year, recreation event special use permit. The Northwest Georgia Chapter of Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association (SORBA) has requested permission to conduct a mountain bike race on a 31-mile section of the Pinhoti Trail (FDT 3) in Chattooga, Walker, Floyd and Whitfield County. The event would take place between the Pinhoti Trailhead at Dry Creek and the end of the Pinhoti Trail at Dug Gap Mountain.

The event is proposed for the first Saturday of the month in January, February and March, 2009. Approximately 200 to 275 people are expected to participate. The Pinhoti Trailheads at Dry Creek and Snake Creek Gap would be used as parking areas. The trailheads, roads and trails normally open to public travel would remain open during the race. SORBA has successfully conducted this same event on the same route and on the same dates and times the past two years without incident. The proposal would allow the event to occur for the next five years. This project would provide a unique recreational opportunity that reflects the resources of the Forest and meets the needs of the recreating public (Forest Plan Goal 31).

HOW TO PROVIDE COMMENTS

I would like to hear from you regarding this project before making my decision. The project appears to fall into a category of actions that may be excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment; because of this, a project or case file and decision memo is not required, specifically, the project falls within the following categorical exclusion from 36 CFR 220.6 (d) # 8: Approval, modification, or continuation of minor, short-term (1 year or less) special uses of National Forest System lands. This determination will not be finalized until after consideration of your comments.

Responses should contain relevant facts or comments that we can consider in reaching a final decision on these projects. Comments received, including names, become part of the project record and are available for public review. We would appreciate receiving your comments on the project **by December 1, 2008**. This will ensure a thorough and complete analysis of the proposal.

Send your written comments to the Conasauga District office at the address given on the letterhead. You may also comment to Larry Thomas by phone at 706-695-6736 Ext 103 or email to lrthomas@fs.fed.us or in person to our office in Chatsworth, Georgia within the normal weekday business hours of 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

Please note that you will be sent further correspondence on these proposals **only** if you comment



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on them or request further correspondence on them. Final decision documents are posted on the Forest website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/conf/sopa/planning.htm>.

Thank you for your interest in the management of the Conasauga Ranger District.

Sincerely,

/S/ MICHELE H. JONES

MICHELE H. JONES
District Ranger